## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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Federal Communications Commission c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

WT 11-65: In the matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or transfer control of licenses and authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

You have before you an opportunity to do something beneficial for both rural communities throughout West Virginia and organized labor across the United States. The proposed AT&T/T-Mobile merger, currently under review in Docket Number 11-65, will expand wireless broadband to rural areas everywhere and strengthen union membership in the wireless communications industry. We support this merger enthusiastically, and urge you to approve it as quickly as possible.

As a result of the merger, AT&T will expand their mobile broadband network to over ninety-seven percent of the population. Rural communities and remote parts of West Virginia will be some of the biggest beneficiaries of this technological advancement, and students, consumers and businesses all stand to gain.

AT&T is also well-known for its cooperation with organized labor and its neutrality toward employees looking for better working conditions. In addition to these benefits for existing employees, the Communications Workers of America has estimated that the merger will also create as many

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96,000 new quality jobs as the new AT&T invests \$8 billion to expand its state-of-the-art wireless network.

On behalf of rural towns and those of us who depend on organized labor for respect and rights in the workplace, I ask that you approve this merger. Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Sincerely,

Ken Hall

Vice President at Large and Director, Package Division International Brotherhood of Teamsters

## KH:md

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Michael Albert, WV PSC
Commissioner Jon McKinney, WV PSC

Commissioner Ryan Palmer, WV PSC